

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00547 140144Z
ACTION SS-25

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O R 132340Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5953
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 0547

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS/ PFOR, US, XA, TZ, RH
SUBJ: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL

REF: MAPUTO 0383

SUMMARY: OWEN'S MEETING WITH MACHEL DESCRIBED AS VERY POSITIVE.
HE WELCOMED PROPOSAL FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND RAISED
NO OBJECTION TO USG INVOLVEMENT OR PARTICIPATION OF ALL
RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS. HE THOUGHT APPROACH OF MAINTAINING
PRESSURE ON SMITH VIA CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WITHOUT CALLING
FOR HALT IN ARMED STRUGGLE WAS CORRECT APPROACH AT THIS
JUNCTURE. HE TOLD OWEN TO GO AHEAD WITH CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS
AND "WE WILL SUPPORT YOU". END SUMMARY.

1. THE HOUR AND A HALF MEETING WITH MACHEL WAS DESCRIBED
BY JOHN GRAHAM AS LIVELY, STRAIGHTFORWARD, AND VERY POSITIVE.

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2. MACHEL LED OFF WITH STATEMENT STRESSING HMG RESPONSIBILITY
FOR RHODESIA. HE JOCLARLY PRAISED UK FOR ITS FANTASTIC
PRODUCTION CAPACITY, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF RHODESIA AND
SMITH. HE SAID IT WAS UP TO HMG NOW TO TAKE CARE OF THIS
CREATION. HE TRACED PAST UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT AT PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT. NOTED THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE LAST
YEAR DESPITE FACT THAT GENEVA HAD STALLED. HE THEN SAID

HE WAS READY TO HEAR THE OWEN PROPOSALS.

2. PICKING UP SEVERAL POINTS MADE BY MACHEL DURING HIS PRESENTATION, OWEN SAID HE FIRST WANTED TO CLARIFY THINGS HE IS NOT PREPARED TO DO:

--LEGITIMIZE SMITH;

--GIVE UP THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION; AND

--CONTINUE IDENFINITELY ALONG A PATH IN WHICH SMITH COULD KEEP ON VETOING A SOLUTION.

OWEN NEXT MADE HIS PROPOSALS EMPHASIZING THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE APPROACH IS A MEANS TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF NEGOTIATIONS, KEEP IAN SMITH NAILED TO INDEPENDENCE DURING 1978 WITH MAJORITY RULE, AND MAKE CLEAR TO SMITH THAT IF HE IS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THIS APPROACH, WORK WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT HIM.

3. OWEN ALSO WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTH IN EXPLAINING TO MACHEL THE NEW FACTOR IN THE PRESENT EFFORT, I.E., USG SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION. (HE DID NOT MENTION COSPONSORSHIP.) OWEN ELABORATED ON THE DEEP COMMITMENT OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO PROMOTING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, REFERING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ANDREW YOUNG AS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF THIS.

4. GRAHAM DESCRIBED MACHEL'S REACTION AS VERY POSITIVE:

--HE PROMISED TO SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS ("HOPE YOU HAVE SUCCESS IN YOUR EFFORTS; WE WILL SUPPORT YOU")

--HE EXPRESSED COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF OWEN'S DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANCE OF HAVING USG BACKING AND INVOLVEMENT AND EXPRESSED NO RESERVATION;

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--HE RAISED NO DIFFICULTIES ON WHO AMONG RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS. (IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD ATTEND"); AND

--HE LIKED THE FACT THAT OWEN HAD NOT ASKED FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE TO BE SUSPENDED WHILE THE CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS PROCEED. IN THIS WAY PRESSURED FROM BOTH SIDES WOULD BE MAINTAINED.

BOWDLER

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